

29 th September, 1960.

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COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONPROPOSED GERMAN EXPORT OF AN AUTOMATIC SORTER TO POLAND26th September, 1960

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM Document 4134.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a German proposal to export to Poland an automatic sorter covered by Item 1530 and valued at \$ 2,977. He invited delegations to make known the views of their Governments.

2. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate stated that he had been instructed to raise objection to the proposed export, since the production of fixed components was the most backward part of the Polish electrical industry. With respect to its use for radar purposes, it was stated in the German Memorandum that "This small accuracy and the small frequency do not allow sorting of high valued strategic capacitors, as for radar sets, portable radio transmitters or rockets (missiles)." According to the technical advice received by the Delegate, relatively few close tolerance components were required for radar purposes, and this equipment would therefore be suitable for the vast majority of such purposes. Furthermore it was not known how skilled the operators of this kind of machine would be.

3. The UNITED STATES Delegate stated that he had been instructed to object to the proposed export. His authorities believed that an automatic sorter with the specifications described in COCOM Document 4134 could readily be used in the sorting of strategic capacitors. While it was true, as the German Delegation had noted, that styroflex foil capacitors did not reach the temperature ranges specified by Item 1560 (such capacitors being limited to 85°C.) and consequently were not embargoed by that item definition, other capacitors - such as Teflon, Mylar or high temperature Silver Mica capacitors, all of which are covered by Item 1560 - could be sorted by the German apparatus without this apparatus being changed in any way. With respect to the view that the accuracy of this sorter was too small to test strategic capacitors, the Delegate stated that of all military capacitors embargoed by Item 1560, 98% had an accuracy of 2% or poorer, and that the typical accuracy for these embargoed capacitors ranged between 5 and 10%. With respect to the view that the frequency of this sorter was too small to test strategic capacitors, the Delegate stated that 100 Kc/s was a very high test frequency as compared with the usual production devices. Testing units for ordinary grade civilian items used a line frequency of 50 or 60 cycles, or at the maximum one kilocycle. For example, capacitors used in radio or television sets (which use a 20% or poorer tolerance) were tested at line frequencies. 100 kilocycle equipment, on the other hand, was used for items of military grade or equivalent where the radio frequency power factor was an important element. The Delegate noted, in addition, that the stated end-use for this automatic sorter appeared doubtful to his authorities, since the upper limit of its capacitance measuring range was 20,000 pF. However, the typical product mix of styroflex foil capacitors for civilian production generally included substantial numbers of capacitors with capacitances of 20,000 pF to 50,000 pF or more. For these reasons, the United States authorities

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believed that the automatic sorter proposed for export would probably be used to sort strategic capacitors, and that this shipment would therefore constitute an unwise contribution to the military potential of the Soviet Bloc.

4. After receiving clarification of the exact meaning of the word "capacitance", the FRENCH Delegate stated that his authorities would raise no objection to the proposed export.
5. The BELGIAN, JAPANESE and NETHERLANDS Delegates raised no objection to the German request.
6. The GERMAN Delegate thanked those delegations who had given favourable views. In reply to one comment from his United States colleague, the Delegate noted that from the prospectus issued by the producer it was clear that this equipment was specially designed to sort styroflex and ceramic capacitors and was not intended to sort Teflon, Mylar or Silver Mica capacitors. He undertook to report the objections raised to his Government and reserved the right to return to the matter.
7. On the 27th September, the Italian Delegate informed the German Delegation and the Secretariat that his authorities were prepared to concur in the majority view.

C O N F I D E N T I A L